

Graduate Institute for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
[Global Environmental Studies Program]
Doctoral Program 2026
Special Admissions for Applicants Residing Abroad
(Privately Financed International Students, First-Round)

1. General Prospectus

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI was founded as a national university in Japan on October 1, 1988. The basic concept of SOKENDAI is to develop a new postgraduate education system in Japan. Its key features are as follows:

- 1) SOKENDAI offers both three-year and five-year doctoral programs.
- 2) SOKENDAI consists of 20 programs under one institute operated by 20 Inter-University Research Institutes and Independent Administrative Institutions (“parent institutions”).
- 3) Research and education are carried out in close cooperation with the parent institutions.
- 4) Broad and international visions are fostered by enhanced interchange between various institutions and universities in Japan and abroad.

The parent institutions provide Japanese and foreign scientists with opportunities to conduct advanced joint research in various scientific branches. They are equipped with extensive research facilities and function as centers for advanced studies. Presently, they cooperate to establish a world-class program for postgraduate education at SOKENDAI.

[Admission Policy]

<What SOKENDAI expects of our grad students>

SOKENDAI tends to attract students who have a strong interest in research, who constantly hone their abundant intellect and sensitivity with the aim of conducting research in the new era, while taking a “bird's-eye view” of the entire field of study, and who have the will and enthusiasm to be active on the international stage.

<Basic policy for the selection of our grad students>

In selecting students for admission, SOKENDAI places importance on basic academic ability and logical thinking ability to actively promote research in the cutting-edge 20 research institutes affiliated with SOKENDAI. In order to properly judge such abilities, various selections will be made according to the respective fields of specialization.

2. Global Environmental Studies Program Outline

The Global Environmental Studies Program is based on the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), a constitutional member of the National Institutes for Humanities (NIHU). RIHN strives for the realization of an equitable, fair and sustainable society globally by formulating how the relationship of people and nature to be, from the community to global scale. To realize this vision, it leads the way in the comprehensive study of the environment that aims for a practice directed towards solving global environmental problems and a fundamental and inclusive understanding of the mutual interaction of humans and nature, based on interdisciplinary research that fuses humanities, social science and natural science and as well as transdisciplinary research that cooperates and collaborates with society. In such a research environment of RIHN, this program is designed to train independent researchers who set research agenda and conduct research based on their own expertise. To encourage students to gain knowledge and methodologies accumulated in the academic fields that constitute Global Environmental Studies, the program provides small-group education and research training based on advanced theories, methods, and practices.

RIHN is developing comprehensive research that transcends existing academic fields and disciplines through a “Program-Project system” that unites several research projects under a Program. Programs consist of several Research Projects under each Program. The Research Projects are conducted in accordance with the priority issues set for each Program.

Fundamental Research Department has been established to support overall research activities at RIHN through providing research infrastructure to promote collaboration with various stakeholders in society toward the establishment of Global Environmental Studies, and to promote the continuous utilization of diverse research results from Research Programs and Projects. Fundamental Research Department is responsible for a wide variety of tasks in cooperation with Research Programs and Projects while conducting research in Global Environmental Studies.

3. Doctoral Degree Requirements

A Doctor of Philosophy degree shall be conferred on students who have satisfied the requirements of their respective doctoral programs, as prescribed below:

[Three-year doctoral program]

Students must be enrolled in SOKENDAI for at least three years, earn the necessary credits,

receive the necessary research guidance, and pass the examination for a doctoral thesis. Students who are recognized as having achieved significant progress may be able to graduate in a shorter timeframe.

4. Doctoral Programs and Number of Students Accepted

Doctoral Programs	Number of Students Accepted
	October 2026
Three-year doctoral program	A few

5. Qualifications for Application

[Qualifications for the three-year doctoral program]

Applicants must fulfill one of the following conditions:

- 1) Master's degree or a degree equivalent to a Professional degree has been conferred or is expected to be conferred by the month preceding enrollment;
- 2) Have been recognized by SOKENDAI as having academic ability equivalent to or superior to those who have a master's degree or a professional degree by the individual screening of the Admission Qualifications of SOKENDAI and have attained an age of 24 years by the end of the month preceding enrollment.

Notes:

*The qualifications do not concern the date of completion of the master's course of study, but the date of conferral of a master's or equivalent professional degree.

*Applicants who intend to apply under the above provision (2) are required to have a qualification screening to confirm "having academic ability equivalent to those who have a master's degree or a professional degree" before the application can be submitted.

Additionally, those who have completed or are expected to complete a master's course before the enrollment in the doctoral program but are not expected to be granted a master's or professional degree by that time must undergo extra screening procedures before applying. If applicable, please contact the Student Affairs Section via email before October 30, 2025.

*Besides the above qualifications (Qualifications 1 and 2), eligible applicants include those who otherwise satisfy or will satisfy the qualification requirements for general admission to SOKENDAI. If you have any questions regarding the qualifications for admission, please contact the Student Affairs Section before October 30, 2025.

6. Required Conditions and Notes

Applicants are expected to satisfy each of the following conditions.

- 1) Are foreign nationals currently residing overseas.
- 2) Arrival in Japan: Are able to arrive in Japan in time for the semester that begins in October 2026.
- 3) Health: Are physically and mentally healthy enough to complete graduate studies at a university in Japan.
- 4) Language Ability: Have a good command of English or Japanese.
- 5) Security Export Control: Depending on the specifics of the education and research instructions they wish to receive upon entering the doctoral program, applicants may be subject to regulations on the export/transfer of controlled technologies based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law. Please consult the Student Affairs Section of SOKENDAI for further details.

7. Application Procedure

[Application Period]

December 2 to December 8, 2025, 5:00 pm JST*

*The application must arrive no later than the last day of the application period, without failure.

[Contact the prospective supervisor]

Before applying, the applicant must contact a prospective supervisor and confirm whether he/she can accept the applicant if the applicant passes the examination. Please see the following URL for the list of faculty members.

https://www.chikyu.ac.jp/rihn/education/public_E/about/

[Application Method]

The applicant must submit a complete set of application documents either by mail or email. For details, please confirm the following points 1) and 2). The application must reach SOKENDAI no later than the application deadline of December 8, 2025 at 5:00 pm JST.

1) Mail

The complete set of application documents must be submitted by registered express mail or a similar service. If there are any problems with the submitted documents, SOKENDAI will contact the applicant via email.

Mailing address;

Student Affairs Section, Division of Academic and Student Affairs
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI
Shonan Village, Hayama, Miura, Kanagawa 240-0193 JAPAN
Telephone number +81-46-858-1526

2) Email

The complete set of application documents must be submitted via email. If the attached files contain more than 10 megabytes, please send them separately, and number each email subject. Additionally, when sending files, please attach them to your email directly without using uploaders.

After receiving the applicant's email, SOKENDAI will send the applicant a confirmation email. If the applicant does not receive our email within a week of submitting the documents, please contact us.

Email address; gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp (Student Affairs Section, SOKENDAI)

Notes: If the applicant is accepted for enrollment, the applicant must submit the original official transcript and certification of graduation.

8. Application Documents

Please read "Application checklist" on our website.

1) Application Form (Attached)

Please attach a photograph (sized 4.5 cm × 3.5 cm taken within the past six months, upper body, full-faced with no hat) on the Application Form. Your signature is required on the Application Form.

2) Examination fee: 30,000 yen

For payment details, please refer to "Instructions on how to make a payment" on our website.

3) Official Transcripts

- Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit the Official Transcripts of each academic year from both undergraduate and graduate schools.

4) Certificate of Graduation or Expected Graduation (originals or certified copies)

- Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit Certificates of Graduation for both undergraduate and graduate schools.
- Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit a Certificate of Graduation for undergraduate school.
- Applicants who have not yet graduated from a university must submit an attested document certifying that the applicant will graduate before entering the doctoral

program.

5) Certified copy of degree diploma

Applicants who have already graduated from a university must submit certified copies of degree diplomas, as follows:

- Applicants applying for the three-year doctoral program must submit certified copies of their bachelor's and master's degree diplomas.
- Applicants applying for the five-year doctoral program must submit a certified copy of their bachelor's degree diploma.

6) Recommendation letter from a person who knows the applicant's research/academic activities well (e.g., the applicant's academic supervisor at the university in which the applicant is currently enrolled or the university that the applicant previously attended). addressed to the President of SOKENDAI. (Original, free format)

7) List of research presentations and publications (free format)

8) Summary of previous research experience (free format, approximately 1,000 words)

9) Summary of master thesis

- If the applicant has no theses or publications, please submit a summary of his/her current research project.
- The summary of your master thesis or current research project should be written in approximately 2,000 words in English.

10) Copy of master thesis (if available)

11) Academic papers (if any, up to 2 papers)

- The thesis or academic paper is to be submitted in PDF format.

12) Field of Study and Research Plan (Attached)

- The item, "3 Study program in Japan," on the form should be written in approximately 1,000 words in English and can include diagrams and/or tables as supplementary information.

13) Photocopy of the applicant's passport pages showing the applicant's name, date of birth, nationality, gender, photograph, and passport number.

Notes:

- The application documents must be prepared in Japanese or English. If the documents are prepared in languages other than Japanese or English, an official English translation must be included.
- The application documents mentioned above must be prepared using word processing software. Print all the required documents on A4 size paper (if possible).
- Your admission may be rescinded at any time, even after enrollment, if the application documents are found to be invalid or contain false information.

9. Selection Schedule and Method

Screening of application materials and an interview with the applicant which will be conducted online on January 21, 2026 (JST) or January 22, 2026 (JST). Applicants will be separately informed of additional selection details after their documents have been submitted.

10. Announcement of Result

The result will be announced to all applicants in February 2026 via email.

11. Admission Procedures

(1) The period of admission procedures is scheduled as follows:

Late September 2026 for the enrollment of October 2026

Successful applicants must complete the admission procedures during the prescribed period. Further details will be provided separately to successful applicants.

(2) Fees required for admission are as follows:

Entrance Fee: JPY 282,000

Tuition Fee for six months: JPY 267,900

*If entrance or tuition fees are revised at the time of or during enrollment, the revised fees shall be applied from the date of the revision.

12. Student Visa

Each candidate who is selected as a privately financed student must apply for a visa in person at the nearest Japanese consulate to enter Japan after receiving the Certificate of Eligibility which is mailed from SOKENDAI.

13. Contact Details for Inquiries

Student Affairs Section, Division of Academic and Student Affairs

The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, SOKENDAI

E-mail: gakusei@ml.soken.ac.jp